

Dialogue Workout # 65

1.
A: Hello. I'm detective Robinson of the San Francisco Police Department.
B: Nice to meet you. I didn't do anything wrong.
A: Someone was murdered in this neighborhood.
B: I'm sorry to hear that. How can I help you?
A: You might be able to help the investigation.
B: I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

2.
A: Did you hear a gun shot around 8:00 this evening?
B: I heard a loud noise. But it sounded like a firecracker.
A: What were you doing when you heard that shot?
B: I was washing dishes, and my wife was writing a letter.
A: Were you walking on the street at any time this evening?
B: No, I don't think so. Wait. I might have gone to the corner to buy a paper.

3.
A: You might have gone to the corner to buy a paper?
B: Yes. In fact, I remember now, I went out around 7:45.
A: 7:45. That's fifteen minutes before the murder occurred.
B: I suppose so. But I didn't hear anything on the walk.
A: You said you heard something like a firecracker.
B: Yes, when I was washing dishes, I heard a firecracker.

4.
A: And when were you washing dishes?
B: I was washing dishes around 8:00. Yes, I'm sure of it.
A: When did you return from the store with the paper?
B: I got back from the store at 8:10. I looked at my watch.
A: Now, just a moment. Let me get this straight. You left at 7:45 to get a newspaper.
B: That's right. I like to read the paper after I wash the dishes.

5.
A: And you got back from the store at 8:10. You looked at your watch.
B: Say, is this investigation going to take much longer?
A: Sorry to bother you. Give me another couple of minutes.
B: Because I have a lot of work to do tonight.
A: I understand. But solving this murder is important.
B: Also, my favorite TV program is on tonight. Last week it was canceled because of a wrestling match.

6.
A: I enjoy watching wrestling matches. I look forward to that program every week.
B: I avoid watching wrestling. The violence upsets me.
A: You don't like violence, however you own a gun.
B: I own a gun? What gave you that idea?
A: I did a little research before this visit. There is a gun registered to your name. Here's a copy of the form.
B: Yes, as a matter of fact, I own a gun. However, I fire it rarely.

7.
A: May I have a look at your firearm please?
B: Yes. It's right here in my pocket. But I don't know why you want to look at it.
A: It's a little warm. Why is it warm? It feels warm to me.
B: I've been carrying it in my pocket, that's why.
A: Are you trying to tell me that your pocket is warm?
B: Yes. Here's my wallet. It's warm too. I don't know what you're driving at.

8.
A: I'm simply trying to get to the bottom of this murder.
B: Well, maybe you should take your investigation somewhere else. I'm getting bored.
A: Are you? I thought you enjoyed murder investigations.
B: I'm feeling nervous all of a sudden. All these questions.
A: How was it possible for you to wash dishes at 8:00?
B: It was very possible. I used dish soap and a sponge.

9.
A: But you clearly said that you were at the store between 7:45 pm and 8:10 pm.
B: Exactly. I went to the store to buy a paper. Why must I keep on repeating things?
A: And yet you were here washing dishes at 8:00 pm.
B: The very idea that I fired a shot and hit a young man in the back is absurd.
A: How did you know he was a young man?
B: Well, I ... I

10.
A: And how did you know that he was shot in the back?
B: It's obvious that you have chosen the wrong man to investigate. I did nothing wrong.
A: You have a warm gun and you know certain facts.
B: I have eyes don't I? I can see the street from here.
A: You were looking at the street when the shot was fired?
B: Absolutely not. Why would I? That's ridiculous.

Dialogue Workout # 66

1.
A: Mother, I'm tired. I don't feel like going to school today.
B: No wonder you're tired. You stayed up until 2:00 am.
A: Can I sleep just a little longer? I'll be on time for my 9:30 class.
B: But Joe, this is the fourth class you've missed so far.
A: I know, but I can catch up. Steve takes good notes.
B: You must not always rely on Steve or your other friends.

2.
A: Why did you stay out so late last night?
B: There was a party at Steve's house. I didn't want to leave. I was having too much fun.
A: Why did Steve have a party on a week night?
B: He wanted it because his parents weren't home.
A: His parents weren't home?
Were there any adults at this party?
B: No, there weren't any adults there. That's why we had a good time.

3.
A: I don't want you to go to a party unless adults are present. Did you drink anything?
B: I only had a couple of beers. And I had a little vodka.
A: Joe, you must not go to Steve's house and drink alcohol. Promise me you won't do it again.
B: Before last night, I had never drunk so much alcohol.
A: Even though you have a hangover, you must get up and go to school.
B: All right. I apologize for staying out late and drinking. I'll stay home tonight and study hard.
A: You told me you were going to Steve's house to study English. You didn't say anything about a party.

4.
A: This is Washington High School. Is Joe ill?
B: What do you mean? Didn't he come to school today?
A: He hasn't arrived at school yet. His first period teacher reported him absent.
B: There must be a mistake. He left for school a half hour ago. He should be there by now.
A: Just one moment, I see his teacher now. I'll ask him if Joe showed up.
B: Joe Adams. You'd better shape up fast or I'm going to be very upset.

5.
A: It's okay, Mrs. Adams. Joe is here. He was ten minutes late to class.
B: Ten minutes late? Why was he so late?

5. (continued)
A: He would've been on time if he hadn't missed the bus.
B: Why did he miss the bus today?
A: His teacher will mark him tardy, that's all.
B: How many times has he been late for his first class?

6.
A: Joe, we have to sit down and talk about this.
B: I don't have time to talk right now. I have to go to Steve's house.
A: Steve's house? Is Steve having another party?
B: I'm going to Steve's house to study English. Steve is a good student. He said he would help me.
A: But that's what you said the last time you went to Steve's house.
B: I know. I wasn't telling the truth. I admit it. I won't drink anything except water or soda.

7.
A: Before you go over there, listen to me a minute.
B: I don't have much time to get ready.
A: You've been going to Steve's a lot. You've been missing the bus and getting to school late.
B: All of that is going to change. I'll do much better.
A: You haven't been doing your English homework. You barely passed English last semester.
B: I know that. I'm working very hard. I read several pages everyday.

8.
A: It is very important to do well in high school.
B: I have been listening to you for ten minutes.
A: You've been listening to me, but you haven't been doing the right thing.
B: Stop lecturing me. Can't you leave me alone? I want to be independent. I want to do what I want to do.
A: If you get bad grades, you will damage your future.
B: Oh, all right. I guess you're right. I've decided I'm not going to Steve's. I'll stay home and study.

9.
A: Hello, Mrs. Adams? This is Judy Wells. Do you remember me?
B: Of course, you're Joe's English teacher.
A: We met each other at the meeting we had last week.
B: Yes, I thought it was a very good meeting.
A: I'm happy to tell you that Joe got an 'A' in his last paper.
B: Well, I'm very pleased to hear that. Thank you for calling.

Dialogue Workout # 67

1.
A: I have a problem. My aunt Sophie will be visiting me next month.
B: Why is that a problem? She's your favorite aunt.
A: I don't have any space in my apartment to put her up.
B: Why can't she sleep in your guest room?
A: Have you seen my guest room lately? It's full of junk.
B: You should have a garage sale to get rid of that junk.

2.
A: Have you ever held a garage sale?
B: No, I've never held one. I don't know how to do it.
A: For one thing, you have to advertise.
You can put an ad in The Chronicle or The Advertiser.
B: After I put an ad in the paper, then what do I do?
A: Make some posters and put them up on phone poles near your building.
B: Then a lot of people will come to my garage sale.

3.
A: Exactly. People read those ads all the time
They are looking for garage sales.
B: Do you think people will really buy this junk?
A: You would be surprised. One person's junk is another person's treasure.
B: All right, I'll do it. I will hold a garage sale next Saturday.
A: Good. I'll help you sell your junk. And I'll bring some of my junk to sell too.
B: I'm looking forward to having this sale.

4.
A: Don't act so nervous. Let the people look over the items.
B: Shouldn't I go up to them and ask if they need help?
A: No, don't do that. This isn't a store.
If they like what they see, they'll buy it.
B: I've never seen so many people at a garage sale before.
A: You did a good job of advertising it. That's why there are so many people.
B: I stayed up all night making colorful posters.

5.
A: How much do you want for this VCR?
B: I've been thinking about how much I want to charge.
One hundred dollars, I guess.
A: One hundred dollars? That's too much money. This is an old VCR.
B: It's a few years old, but it works very well.
Although I haven't used it for a while.

5. (continued)
A: Can you please turn it on and put in a tape and prove to me it works?
B: I can't do that. My TV is inside my apartment. I don't want to bring it out.

6.
A: If you can't prove to me it works, why should I pay \$100.00 for it?
B: I told you that it works. There's nothing wrong with it.
A: I still don't think I should have to pay \$100.00 for it.
B: Why not?
A: What if I bring it home and it doesn't work?
Then I will have spent \$100.00 for nothing.
B: All right. Suppose I sell it for \$50.00. Will that make you happy?

7.
A: What if I take it home, put on a tape, and it destroys my tape?
B: That won't happen. I promise you, that won't happen.
A: But I can't know for sure it won't happen.
You refuse to demonstrate it.
B: All right. I have to take care of other customers.
Tell me a price you are comfortable with.
A: I'll take it off your hands for \$15.00.
That's all I have in my wallet at the moment.
B: Fine. It's yours. I hope you'll be happy with it.

8.
A: What's this?
B: It's a lid for a sauce pan. But I sold the sauce pan.
A: Why didn't you sell the sauce pan and the lid together?
B: I wasn't thinking. I was so busy helping customers.
A: It might fit my sauce pan at home. How much do you want for the lid?
B: Take it. It's free. I hope it fits your sauce pan.

9.
A: How was your garage sale? Was it worth while?
B: Yes, I'm glad I held one. I made about two hundred dollars.
A: Great. I'm sorry I couldn't be there to help you.
Something came up.
B: That's okay. Actually, a couple of neighbors helped me out.
A: You said you made two hundred dollars? But a lot of stuff is left.
B: I know. I sold small items, mostly. I still have a lot of junk.

Dialogue Workout # 68

1.

A: Look at this shopping list. Christmas is only a few weeks away.

B: You certainly have a lot of presents to buy.

A: I'd better go shopping today.

If I wait until the last minute, I won't find anything.

B: Why do you have such a long list this year?

Last year your shopping list was a lot shorter.

A: My daughter married a divorced man.

He has six children from a previous marriage.

2.

A: I wouldn't buy presents for all those children.

B: I have to buy presents. I'm their only grandmother.

A: Do you know what the children want for Christmas?

B: I wrote a few things down in my notebook.

A: A dress, a dictionary, a wallet, a backpack.

These things could be expensive.

B: And you? Have you done your shopping yet?

3.

A: I've decided I'm going to buy practical presents for my children and grandchildren.

B: Practical presents?

A: Things they can use at school, at home, and at work.

B: Your shopping list is as long as mine.

A: I'm accustomed to buying a lot of presents at Christmas.

B: Could you give an example of a practical present?

4.

A: My nephew wants a new shirt.

But, I'm going to get him a bicycle helmet instead.

B: What do you suggest I buy my grandson? He wants a toy train.

A: Buy him a pen and pencil set instead.

B: Of course, those things are practical. He will use them at school.

A: I'm buying sheets and pillowcases for my daughter and her husband.

B: They're a lot cheaper than a new set of silverware.

5.

A: Practical gifts are the cheapest presents you can buy.

B: Maybe we could pick up a bargain at a garage sale.

A: Don't buy Christmas presents at a garage sale.

B: You're right. I've never found anything at a garage sale I've really liked.

A: I think you should buy your granddaughter an umbrella and a raincoat.

B: That's a good example of a useful present.

6.

A: I haven't gone Christmas shopping yet.

B: Why not? Do you realize that Christmas is only three weeks away?

A: I'm trying to think of practical gifts.

B: Do the children wash their hair and brush their teeth?

A: Have you heard of any one who doesn't?

B: You should buy them toothpaste, shampoo, and conditioner.

7.

A: I need to buy some pillowcases and curtains. Do you have those items?

B: No, we don't. You can find them in Household Furnishings on the Sixth Floor.

A: Could you tell me where I can buy CDs?

B: We don't sell CDs. You'll find them in Tower Records.

A: Is Tower Records near here?

B: Tower Records is right across the parking lot.

8.

A: Christmas is only a week away. Haven't you finished your shopping yet?

B: Not yet, but I've completed about half of my list.

A: I think your daughter will like the curtains. Your grandson will enjoy the CDs.

B: I'm having trouble finding a raincoat for my son in law.

A: A raincoat? That shouldn't be difficult to find.

Did you check the Men's Department?

B: Yes, I did. The problem is my son in law is very short.

9.

A: Excuse me, I'm looking for a raincoat for a short man.

B: Here are several short raincoats. This one is nice.

A: These are nice raincoats, but don't you have any shorter ones?

B: No, I'm afraid not. These are shortest ones we have.

Do you want to try the Children's Department?

A: Certainly not. My son in law is a grown up man.

B: I'm sorry we couldn't help you.

Please come again when your son is a little taller.

10.

A: I couldn't find a raincoat for my son-in-law.

And I don't want to buy him an umbrella.

B: What's wrong with this raincoat? It's on sale.

A: It's too long. It would drag on ground if he wore it.

B: I suggest you get him a Macy's gift card.

Then, he can buy his own clothes.

A: A Macy's gift card? How much would it cost?

B: You can get a gift card for any amount you want.

Dialogue Workout # 69

1.
A: We are happy to have Elizabeth Taylor here today.
B: I'm very happy to be on your program, John.
A: Tell me, Elizabeth, where and when were you born?
B: I was born on February 27, 1932, in London, England.
A: How old were you in your first movie?
B: I was nine years old in the movie, "There's One Born Every Minute."

2.
A: You have acted with some famous performers.
B: Yes, I was in two movies with Lassie, the dog.
A: But your first big success was in "National Velvet."
B: It was a horse movie. I won a horse race in it. I've always loved horses.
A: You weren't just a child actress. You became a famous adult film star.
B: That's right. I wanted to be a serious actress like my mother.

3.
A: Many child actors don't go on to be in movies as adults.
B: No, sometimes an actor can only get roles if she is young and cute.
A: You earned an Academy Award twice, didn't you?
B: Yes, I did. The first time I won I was surprised. I didn't like the movie I was in.
A: And the second time?
B: I played an unhappy wife of a professor. It was a good role.

4.
A: May I ask you a couple of personal questions?
B: That depends on the questions, of course.
A: Have you ever been really in love?
B: Oh, what a question! Yes, of course, several times.
A: Exactly how many husbands have you had?
B: I've had eight, including my present husband.

5.
A: Probably your most famous husband was the actor Richard Burton, am I right?
B: Yes. I met Richard when we were playing in the movie "Cleopatra."
A: Then, you and he were very often in the newspapers and magazines.
B: Like many famous people, we were always chased by reporters. We didn't have much privacy.
A: It can be very difficult to avoid photographers.
B: Although I tried to be nice, I was often angry at them.

6.
A: You're 68 years old now. How do you feel?
B: I've had several health problems, but now I'm okay.
A: You have done a lot of work for AIDS, haven't you?
B: Yes, I have. It's a terrible epidemic. And we need to find a cure for it.
A: Do you still act in movies?
B: I haven't been in a movie for a while, but I sometimes appear on TV shows.

7.
A: Another of your famous husbands was Eddie Fisher.
B: Yes. Eddie and I were married for three years.
A: Did you and Eddie have any children?
B: Yes, we did. We had a daughter, Carrie. She became an actress also.
A: I remember seeing her in "Star Wars." She was wonderful.
B: Yes, she was. I have several children and also grandchildren.

8.
A: Your life hasn't been free of problems, has it?
B: No, John. For several years, I had a drinking problem.
A: But, you successfully overcame that problem.
B: Yes, I did. I used to drink a lot with my husband, Richard.
A: He never got over his drinking problem, did he?
B: No, he didn't. In fact, he died of alcoholism.

9.
A: When you have a strong addiction, you can't cure yourself. You need to get help.
B: So, you found help and now you're better.
A: That's right. I need all my energy for the things that are important to me.
B: For example, your fund raising for AIDS research.
A: That's right. And also, my children and grandchildren.
B: You've certainly led a rich and exciting life.

10.
A: Tell me, Elizabeth, what is your secret for remaining so beautiful?
B: Well, John, thank you for the compliment. I think beauty is inside a person.
A: Really? That's an interesting idea.
B: Yes. If you are kind to people and if you have a good heart, it is easy to be beautiful.
A: Elizabeth Taylor, it has been a great pleasure to have you on my program.
B: I enjoyed talking to you and your audience, John